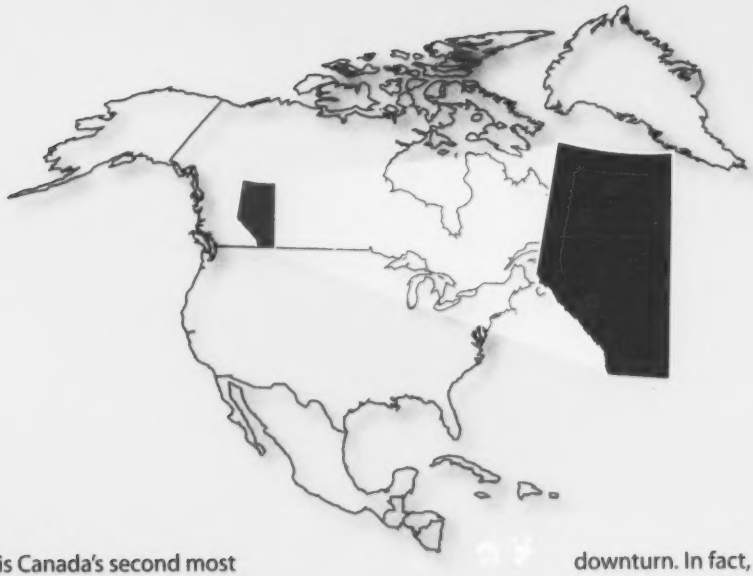
Highlights of the Alberta Economy 2009

Alberta
Freedom To Create. Spirit To Achieve.

Government of Alberta
Canada



Alberta is Canada's second most western province. The province's borders touch the Canadian Rocky Mountains to the west, the vast prairies to the east, the United States to the south and the Canadian Arctic to the north.

On average the province's 3.6 million people are the youngest of all Canadian provinces, with a median age of 35.7 years. One of every six Albertans was born outside of Canada. This young, diverse population is well educated with over half of the 2.1 million-strong labour force holding a post-secondary degree, diploma or certificate.

While the global recession did hit Alberta in late 2008, growth in exports, personal income and employment were strong and have helped position Alberta to weather the economic downturn. In fact, up to 2008 this progress made Alberta the leader of economic growth in Canada. The energy sector is the driving economic force while being supported by other key industry sectors such as petrochemicals, agriculture and agri-food, forest products, industrial machinery and equipment, tourism, information and communications technology, nanotechnology, biotechnology and health technology and services.

Alberta's international airports in Edmonton and Calgary provide excellent air service to both domestic and international destinations. To promote its presence in key markets, Alberta operates nine international trade and investment offices, including five in Alberta's second-largest market, Asia.

Minister's Message

Alberta is a great place to be. We have a relatively strong economy, a low tax environment and the best fiscal situation in the country.

Highlights of the Alberta Economy provides an overview of Alberta's economic performance over the last reportable year. It was a year of opportunity and challenges for the province. Readers of this booklet will notice that in 2008 Alberta enjoyed a 2.8 per cent expansion of its workforce, investment of more than $86 billion, and the lowest unemployment rate in Canada.

The global financial crisis in 2008 significantly impacted economies all over the world, and Alberta is not immune to this. But because of the actions government took to get Alberta where it is today, the province will weather this economic storm.

Moving past the economics, Albertans experience a province filled with natural beauty, diverse cultures, high educational standards and achievements and a strong, responsive health care system that anyone can access.

Albertans are braced to meet the challenges that economic turbulence brings. The information in this booklet proves that Albertans are prepared for and can persevere and prosper during any economic cycle. Alberta will remain one of the strongest provinces in this country, now and into the future.

Regards,

Iris Evans

Honourable Iris Evans
Minister, Finance and Enterprise

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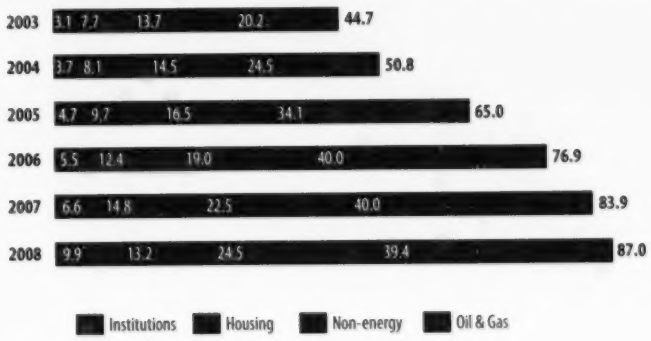
INVESTMENT

Strong investment is a hallmark of the Alberta economy, enabling the province to lead the nation in per capita investment. In 2008, per capita investment in Alberta was $24,262, more than twice the national average of $10,387. Investment is sharply lower in 2009, mostly as a result of a large decline in oil and gas investment because of weak commodity prices and tighter credit conditions.

Total Investment in Alberta
Capital Expenditures
($ Billions)

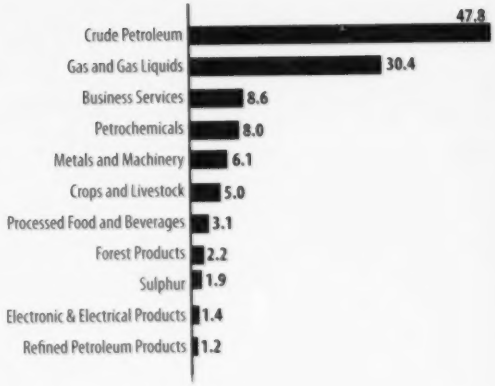


Source: Statistics Canada

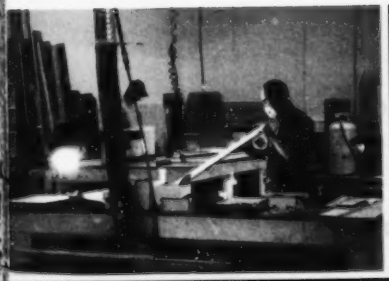
EXPORTS

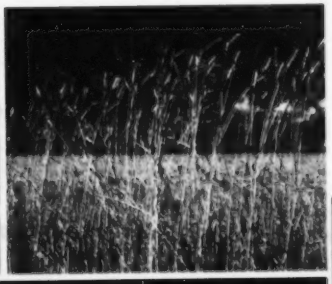
In 2008, Alberta exported $118.7 billion worth of goods and services to 192 countries, an increase of 83 per cent from the value five years ago. Alberta's export performance in 2008 was driven mainly by higher oil and gas prices, the strong recovery of agricultural exports, and to a lesser degree continued growth in manufactured exports. Alberta exports an increasing volume and variety of manufactured products. Exports of manufactured products rose by 56 per cent between 2003 and 2008.

Alberta's Major Exports 2008
Total Exports: $118.7 Billion
($ Billions)



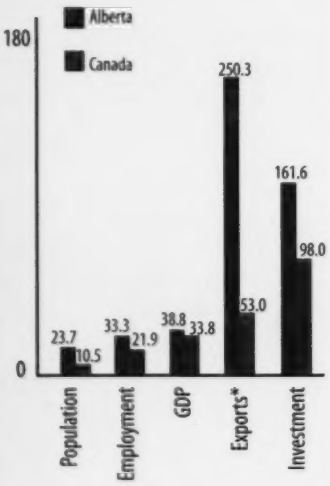
Sources: Statistics Canada and Alberta Finance and Enterprise





Economic Highlights

Growth In Selected Indicators: 1998-2008
(per cent change)



*Goods Exports
Sources: Statistics Canada, Alberta Finance and Enterprise

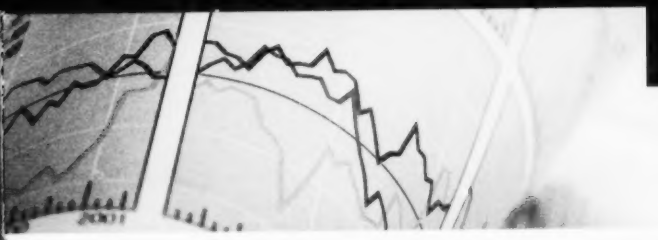
GROWTH

The official Statistics Canada Census in 2006 indicated that Alberta's population increased by 315,000 since the previous census five years earlier. Between July 2007 and July 2008, Alberta's population increased by 2.1 per cent to reach 3.6 million. Alberta accounted for 21.7 per cent of Canada's population growth between July 1998 and July 2008.

Because of the global economic crisis, Alberta's economy contracted by 0.2 per cent in 2008. However, even with this decline Alberta still leads all provinces in economic growth during the past five years, with an average annual GDP growth of 3.8 per cent per year.

Employment increased by a net 53,900 jobs in 2008, international merchandise exports reached a record high of $110 billion and investment a record $87 billion.

Private sector forecasts expect Alberta to continue to lead the country in economic growth over the long term.

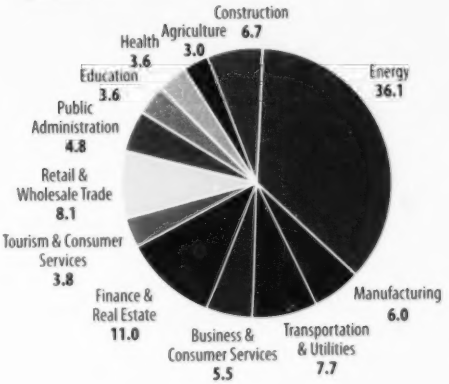


ECONOMIC DIVERSITY

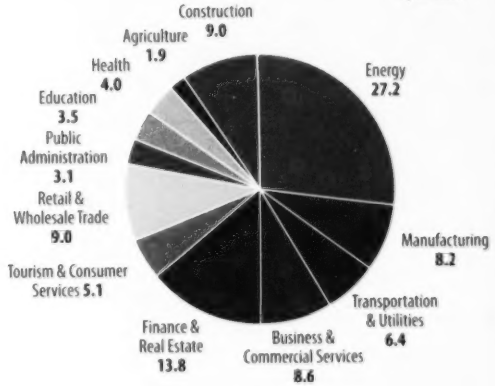
Alberta's diverse economy provides the broad-based growth that is crucial to sustaining stable, long-term economic growth.

Energy remains the key driver of Alberta's economy, accounting for more than one-quarter of the province's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). However, other sectors have shown considerable growth over the past two decades. The non-energy sectors that registered the strongest relative expansion from 1985 to 2007 were the construction sector (6.7 per cent share of GDP in 1985 to 9 per cent in 2007), the finance and real estate sector (11 per cent to 13.8 per cent) and the business and commercial services sector (5.5 per cent to 8.6 per cent).

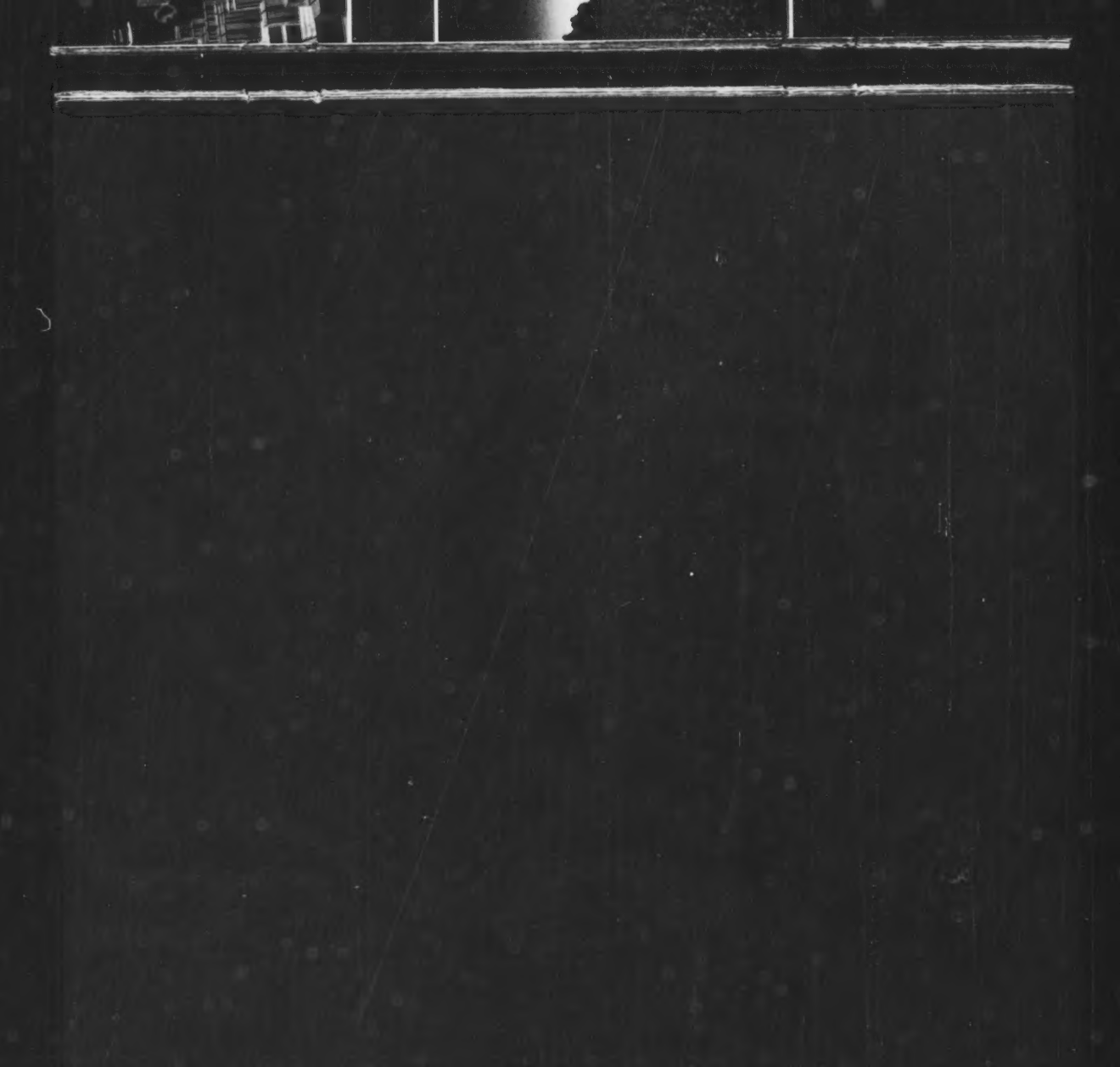
Economic Diversity: 1985
Percentage Distribution of GDP
Total GDP: $66.8 Billion
(per cent)



Economic Diversity: 2007
Percentage Distribution of GDP
Total GDP: $258.9 Billion
(per cent)



Sources: Statistics Canada and Alberta Finance and Enterprise.



A Diversified and Resource-Rich Economy

ENERGY

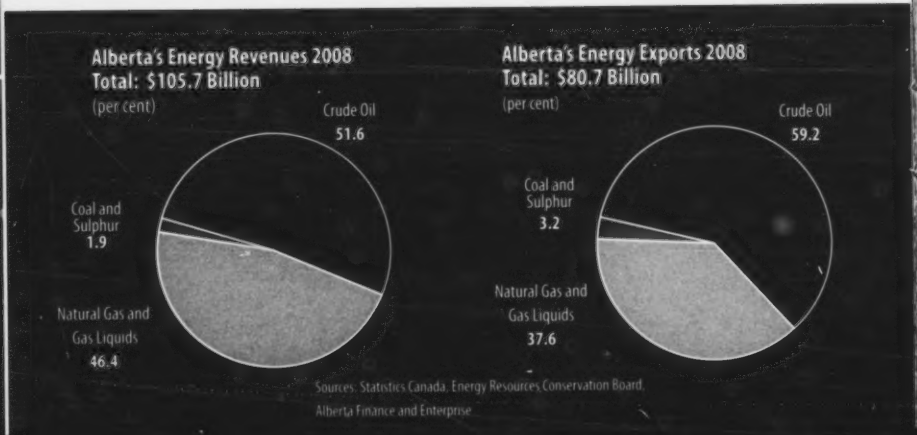
Energy Revenue

Energy is the engine of the Alberta economy. Alberta produces 69 per cent of Canada's crude oil and 81 per cent of its natural gas.

Including oil sands, Alberta has the second largest petroleum reserves in the world. Only Saudi Arabia has more. Marketable production from oil sands is expected to more than double to 2.7 million barrels per day by 208, up from 1.2 million barrels per day in 2008. Gross revenues from all hydrocarbons were $105.7 billion in 2008, with crude oil revenues accounting for just over one-half of the total.

Alberta's Energy Exports

In 2008, energy resource exports accounted for $80.7 billion of Alberta's exports, about 68 per cent of Alberta's total exports of goods and services in that year.



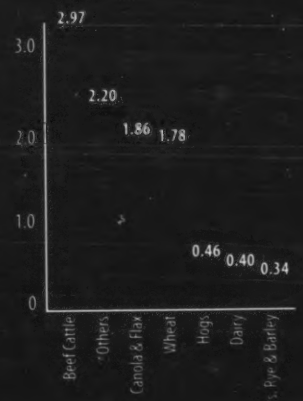
AGRICULTURE

With more than 20 million hectares (51 million acres) currently used for crop and livestock production, Alberta has one of the world's most productive agricultural economies.

In 2008, total farm cash receipts reached $10.0 billion, the highest on record. Alberta represented 21.9 per cent of the value of Canada's total agricultural production and posted the country's highest livestock market receipts.

Besides a strong primary agricultural sector, Alberta also has an expanding value-added agricultural products sector. In 2008, manufacturing shipments of Alberta's food and beverage processing industries reached $11.7 billion. Meat product manufacturing accounted for more than half of the sector's shipments.

Alberta's Major Agricultural Products 2008
Farm Cash Receipts ($ Billions)
Total: $10.0 Billion



*Includes specialty cash crops, honey, poultry, eggs, program payments, etc.

Source: Statistics Canada

FORESTRY

Alberta covers over 66 million hectares of land, 58 per cent or 38 million hectares of which is forested. The province's commercially productive timber land base of 22.5 million hectares covers 35 per cent of Alberta's total area and includes in excess of 2.2 billion m3 of growing stock.

Annually, Alberta allows 25.9 million cubic meters (m3) to be harvested, of which 14.7 million m3 is coniferous, and 11.2 million m3 is deciduous.

Shipments of forest products reached $4.3 billion in 2008, and exports were $2.2 billion. The value of lumber and oriented strand board has declined sharply in recent years because of the drop in housing starts in the U.S. and Canada.

MANUFACTURING

Between 1998 and 2008, Alberta's manufacturing shipments more than doubled to $70.1 billion.

Real manufacturing output in Alberta has gained momentum since 2003, expanding by 33 per cent between 2003 and 2008. By comparison, Saskatchewan, the number two province, posted a 31 per cent growth rate over the same period, while Canadian manufacturing output declined by three per cent.

Alberta's manufacturing sector is closely tied to the resource sector. About two-thirds of manufacturing output consists of value-added resource products such as petrochemicals, food products and lumber. In 2008, the largest manufacturing sectors were refined petroleum products, chemicals, and food and beverages.

Value of Alberta Manufacturing Shipments 2008
Total: $70.1 Billion
($ Billions)

*Includes wood and pulp & paper industries
**Includes telecom equipment
Source: Statistics Canada

Internet Usage – Canada 2007
Percentage of Adults aged 16 and over Accessing the Internet

Internet Usage – International 2006
Percentage of Adults aged 16 to 74 Accessing the Internet

* 2007 data
** 2005 data
Sources: Statistics Canada and OECD

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

Alberta's information and communication technologies (ICT) sector includes companies engaged in producing computer equipment and services, software, semiconductors, navigational and medical instruments, and telecommunication equipment and services.

In 2008, the province's 4,300 ICT companies generated $10.2 billion in revenue, $1.6 billion in exports and employed 54,500 Albertans.

In 2007, Alberta was the number two province in the country (behind British Columbia) for online Internet use with 77 per cent of adult Albertans (16 years and older) accessing the Net. The strong connectivity of Alberta is partly attributable to the Alberta Supernet, a network that connects hospitals, schools, libraries and government buildings with affordable high-speed Internet access.

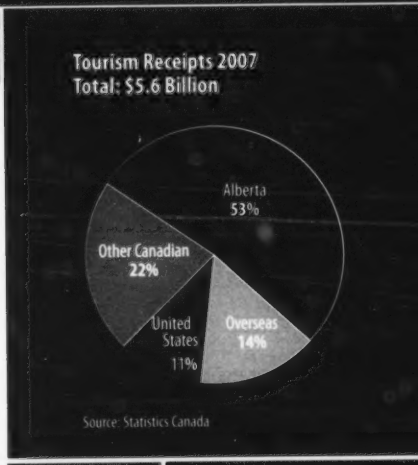
TOURISM

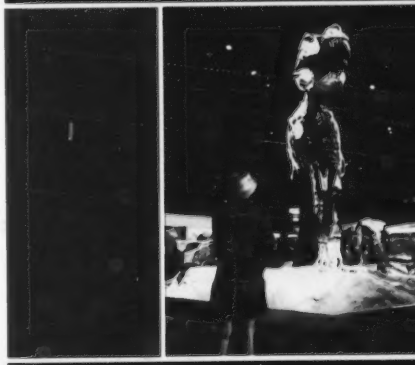
Alberta offers visitors a wide variety of attractions ranging from natural scenic beauty, diverse landscapes, world renowned national parks, bustling shopping locales, festivals, and athletic events.

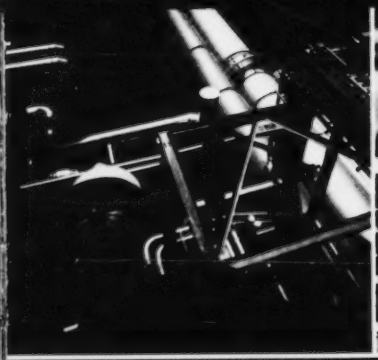
Tourism supports more than 100,000 jobs for Albertans, and generated an estimated $5.6 billion in revenues in 2007. Nearly one-half of the 2007 revenues of $5.6 billion, about $2.7 billion, came from out-of-province visitors.

The Calgary tourism destination region was Alberta's top tourism draw in 2007, generating $1.42 billion in expenditures. The Edmonton and Alberta Rockies tourism destination regions followed close behind generating an estimated $1.27 billion and $1.16 billion, respectively, in tourism receipts. The Alberta Rockies, Edmonton and Calgary tourism destination regions accounted for 68 per cent of the province's tourism receipts.

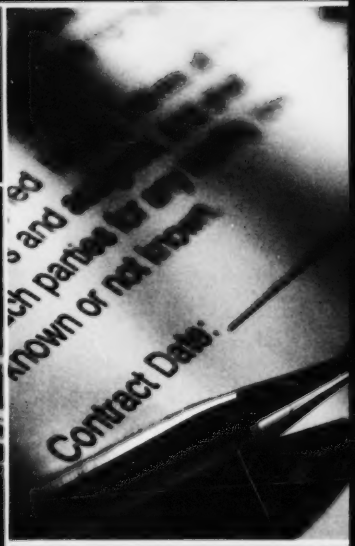
Rural Alberta also benefits from the province's tourism industry. Visitors find a wide range of unique experiences throughout rural areas, from dinosaur digs to world-class fishing, teepee camping trips to PGA calibre golfing, and much more. Another growing aspect of Alberta's tourism industry is in the area of sustainable tourism practices. Travelers can show concern for the environment by visiting "green" facilities like Blackfoot Crossing and the Dinosaur Provincial Park visitor centre in the Canadian Badlands.







Doing Business in Alberta



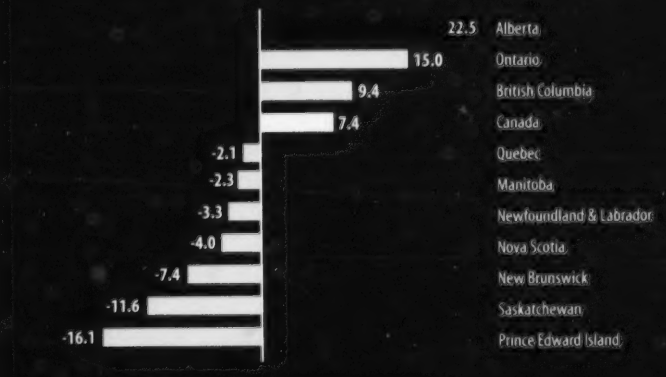
INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Alberta's dynamic and innovative business climate is evident by the growth in the number of small businesses.

Leading Canada in the increase of small businesses (defined as business establishments with less than 50 employees), Alberta enjoyed an a 22.5 per cent increase in the number of business establishments between the fourth quarter of 1998 and the fourth quarter of 2008. For the same period, the province's increase of businesses with less than 10 employees was also the highest at 27 per cent compared to the Canadian average of 6.4 per cent.

Between 2001 and 2004, Alberta's small business corporate income tax rate was cut in half to three per cent, and between 2001 and 2009, the small business income threshold more than doubled to $500,000.

Small Business – Cornerstone of the Economy 1998 – 2008
Percentage Change in Small Business Establishments (Less than 50 Employees)



Source: Canadian Business Patterns, Statistics Canada

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Alberta's extensive network of research and development institutions is leading the way in the development and commercialization of advanced products and processes.

The Alberta government's research and development expenditures are among the highest, on a per capita basis, in Canada. It committed $1 billion to create a new Alberta Ingenuity Fund, which provides long term funding for research and development in a variety of science and engineering fields.

Effective January 1, 2009, Alberta's new provincial Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED) tax credit is worth 10 per cent of a company's eligible expenditures up to $4 million, for a maximum credit of $400,000. This is just one more step toward remaining competitive with other jurisdictions to attract, retain, and grow knowledge-intensive companies.

Furthermore, the Government of Alberta has established the $100 million Alberta Enterprise Corporation to attract and strengthen venture capital investments in Alberta. The corporation's expert board will invest in a range of venture funds. Those funds will invest in promising companies, generate multiple sources of funds, and attract more venture capital to Alberta to invest in early-stage technology companies.

The University of Alberta is home to the new National Institute for Nanotechnology. The institute has more than 270 personnel with 21 principal investigators working on solutions at the leading edge of nanotechnology. Based on its range of advanced equipment, research capabilities and the dollar value of its research programs, the institute currently ranks as one of the world's top ten nanotechnology institutes.

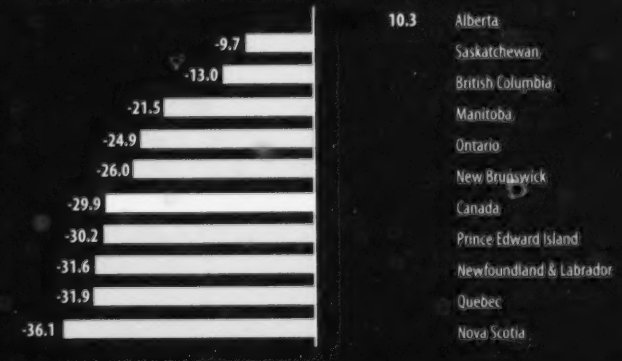
Advanced technology research and product development capabilities:

- Nanotechnology
- Micro-machining
- Online media development
- Geospatial positioning
- Biomaterials and biofuels
- Pharmaceuticals
- Nutraceuticals
- Petrochemicals
- Genomics

GOVERNMENT

Attracting investment and encouraging job growth in the private sector has long been the mantra of the Alberta government. To encourage growth, government is committed to free enterprise, sustainable economic development, a competitive tax environment, strong infrastructure, and less regulation and red tape.

Provincial Net Financial Assets/Debt as a per cent of GDP, March 31, 2009



Note: Excludes Pension Liabilities.
Source: Alberta Finance and Enterprise.

EDUCATED WORK FORCE

Alberta's labour force consists of more than two million well-educated workers. In 2008, 62 per cent of the labour force 25 years of age and older reported holding a university degree, post-secondary diploma or certificate.

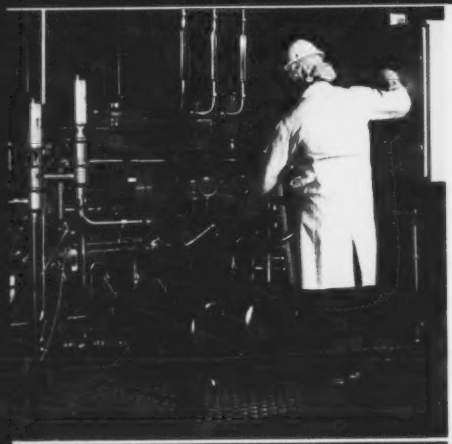
Alberta's education system provides a learning environment conducive to economic and social success and encourages an environment that supports the pursuit of life-long learning.

The Canadian Council on Learning, an independent think-tank, developed a Composite Learning Index (CLI) which combines data based on 17 indicators that measure the learning environment. Indicators range from access to on-the-job-training to exposure to sports, media, recreation and cultural events.

Alberta's CLI was the highest among the Canadian provinces, with an index of 85.3. This represented a five percentage point advantage over second-ranked British Columbia, and an 8.2 percentage point advantage over the Canadian CLI. Alberta led the nation for large cities, smaller cities and towns and rural communities.

Composite Learning Index 2008

Source: Canadian Council on Learning



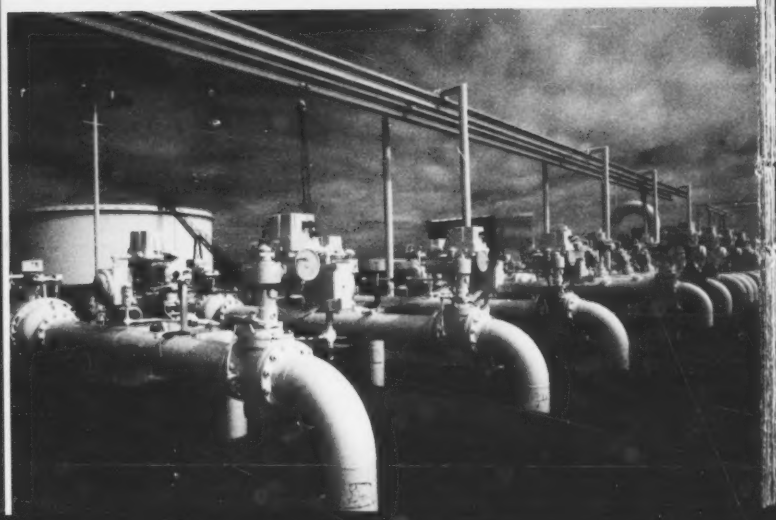
PRODUCTIVITY AND COMPETITIVENESS

In 2008, Alberta's economic productivity was higher than any other province's. Alberta's labour productivity, defined as total GDP per hour worked, exceeded the Canadian average by 16 per cent.

While Alberta's economic growth prospects remain strong over the long term, increased productivity growth will be important to optimize the economic benefits from energy investment in Alberta, and to encourage higher value added activity and industrial diversification. There is a need for a renewed emphasis on improving the fundamentals of Alberta's competitiveness and productivity, particularly in non-energy-based sectors.

Labour Productivity 2008
Real GDP per hour worked, in 2002 constant dollars

Source: Statistics Canada, Alberta Finance and Enterprise



TAXES

With recent tax changes, Alberta has one of the most competitive business tax environments in North America. The combined federal/provincial corporate income tax rate is 29 per cent in 2009.

The Government of Alberta reduced its general corporate income tax rate to 10 per cent in 2006. The Government of Canada is also reducing the general corporate income tax rate to 15 per cent by 2012.

The new income tax rates combined with the fact that Alberta has no provincial capital taxes, payroll taxes or sales tax, and has a publicly funded health care insurance system makes Alberta's tax environment very competitive. Moreover, Alberta's health care premiums were eliminated as of January 1, 2009.

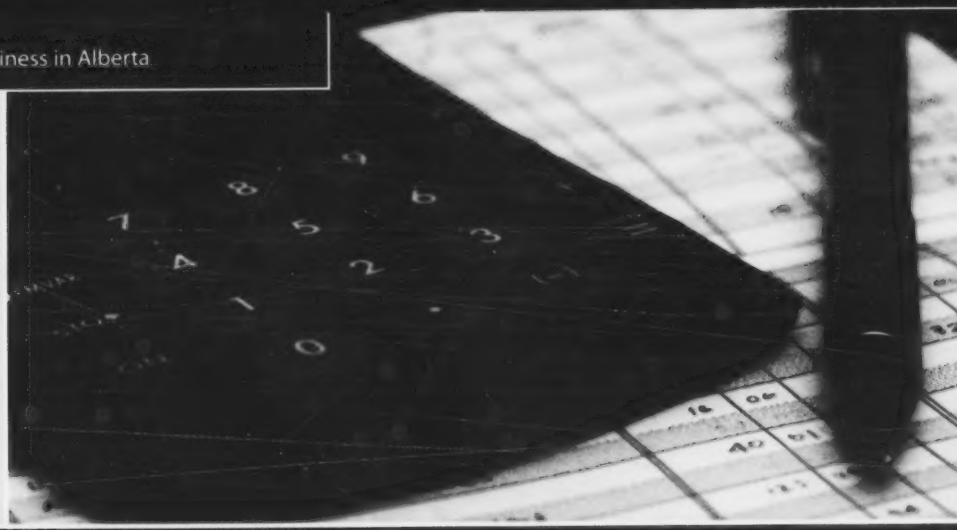
Comparison of Corporate Income Tax Rates

*6.5% represents the average effective top general state corporate income tax rate
Rates known as of January 2009
Source: Alberta Finance and Enterprise, and Federation of Tax Administrators

Provincial Capital and Payroll Tax Rates (Maximum Per Cent)

Province	Capital Tax (General)	Payroll Tax
Alberta	-	-
British Columbia	-	-
Saskatchewan	-	-
Manitoba	0.40	2.15
Ontario	0.225	1.95
Quebec	0.24	4.26
New Brunswick	-	-
Nova Scotia	0.30	-
Newfoundland & Labrador	-	2.00
Prince Edward Island	-	-

Rates effective July 1, 2009
Source: various provincial budgets



Provincial Corporate Income Tax rates (per cent) [1]

Province	General	Manufacturing & Processing	Small Business
Alberta[3]	10.0	10.0	3.0
British Columbia	11.0	11.0	2.5
Saskatchewan	12.0	10.0-12.0	4.5
Manitoba[2]	12.0	12.0	1.0
Ontario	14.0	12.0	5.5
Quebec	11.9	11.9	8.0
New Brunswick[2]	12.0	12.0	5.0
Nova Scotia	16.0	16.0	5.0
Newfoundland & Labrador	14.0	5.0	5.0
Prince Edward Island	16.0	16.0	2.1
Federal	19.0	19.0	11.0

State Corporate Income Tax Rates (per cent)[4]

State	General	Manufacturing & Processing	Small Business[5]
Washington [6]	n/a	n/a	n/a
Oregon	6.6	6.6	6.6
California	8.84	8.84	8.84
North Dakota	6.5	6.5	6.4
Montana	6.75	6.75	6.75
Idaho	7.6	7.6	7.6
Colorado	4.63	4.63	4.63
Utah	5.0	5.0	5.0
New Mexico	7.6	7.6	4.8
Louisiana	8.0	8.0	7.2
Federal	35.0	32.9	34.0

1) Rates as of April 21, 2009 unless otherwise noted;
2) Effective July 1, 2009
3) Alberta's threshold for Canadian-controlled Private Corporations (CCPCs) increased from $460,000 to $500,000 on April 1, 2009
4) Rates as of January 1, 2009
5) The small business rate is the effective tax rate for US$469,000 (comparable to the Canadain threshold of Cdn $500,000).
6) Washington has a business occupation tax in lieu of an income tax, which is based on gross revenue sales (0.471% to 1.5% according to the type of business).

Source: PWC Tax News Network, Federation of Tax Administrators

WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD PREMIUMS

The Alberta Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) has taken major steps over the past several years to improve operations and reduce accident claims.

Alberta's 2008 estimated rate of $1.32 per $100 of insurable earnings was the lowest of all provinces. The 2009 average premium rate per $100 of insurable earnings is forecast to remain at $1.32.

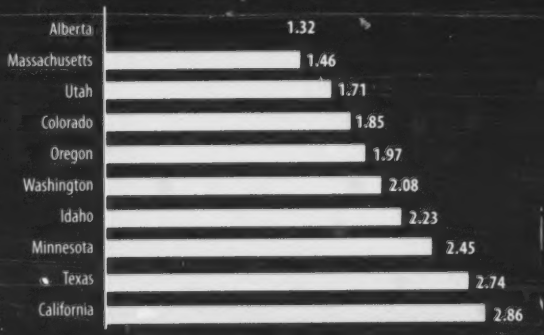
Alberta has one of the lowest premium rates in North America. Alberta's premium rate per $100 payroll in 2008 was the third lowest in North America. In 2008, it was about one-half of the premium rates in California and Texas.

Workers' Compensation Board Premiums
Canada
2009 Assessment Rates* Per $100 Payroll

* Provisional as of January 1, 2009

Source: Association of Workers' Compensation Boards of Canada

Workers' Compensation Board Premiums
United States
2008 Assessment Rates* Per $100 Payroll



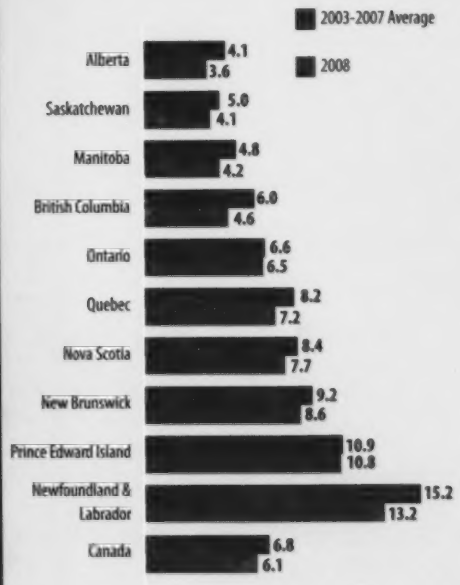
* Rates in effect as of January 1, 2008

Note: 1 US $ = 1.05 Cdn $

Source: Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services

Working in Alberta

Unemployment Rates by Province: 2003 - 2008 (per cent)



Source: Statistics Canada

STRONG LABOUR MARKET

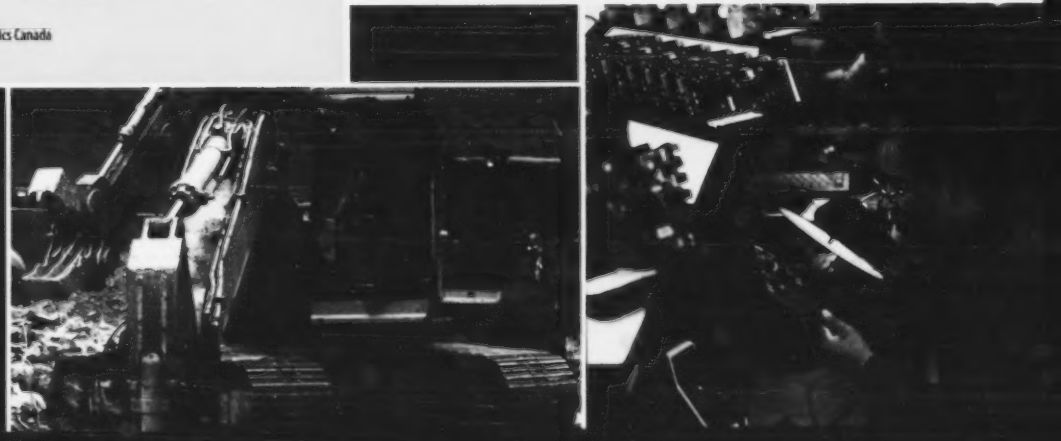
While the recent global recession has resulted in increases in unemployment, Alberta's labour market will remain strong in the foreseeable future. Although Alberta's unemployment rate has risen from historical lows to rates that are currently higher than what economists typically generalize as a balanced labour market, Alberta is expected to have a balanced labour market once the current economic crisis is resolved.

Alberta's unemployment rate has been one of the three lowest of all the provinces in Canada since 1989, and was the lowest in the country between 2004 and 2008.

Alberta's unemployment rate averaged 4.1 per cent from 2003 to 2007, and was 3.6 per cent in 2008.

Alberta employment has grown by an average of 50,300 new jobs per year since 1998, a growth rate of 2.9 per cent per annum.

In 2008, employment in the Alberta economy increased by 53,900 over 2007.

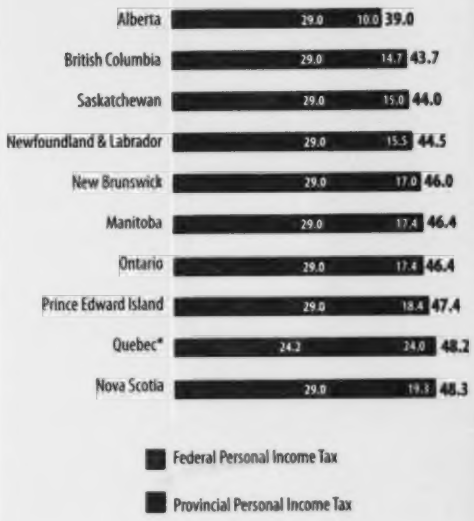


TAXES

Alberta's personal tax advantage results from a low single rate tax system, no general sales tax, and the lowest gasoline tax among the provinces.

Albertans pay low personal income taxes, with the lowest top marginal income tax rate and the highest basic and spousal amounts in Canada.

Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rates 2009
(per cent)


Alberta 29.0 10.0 39.0
British Columbia 29.0 14.7 43.7
Saskatchewan 29.0 15.0 44.0
Newfoundland & Labrador 29.0 15.5 44.5
New Brunswick 29.0 17.0 46.0
Manitoba 29.0 17.4 46.4
Ontario 29.0 17.4 46.4
Prince Edward Island 29.0 18.4 47.4
Quebec* 24.2 24.0 48.2
Nova Scotia 29.0 19.3 48.3
Federal Personal Income Tax
Provincial Personal Income Tax

*Federal tax payable has been reduced by the 16,5% abatement for Quebec taxpayers.

Source: PWC Tax News Network, April 21, 2009

Comparison of Provincial and Federal Taxes by Province: Two Income Family of Four - $75,000*

Comparison of Provincial and Federal Taxes by Province: Two Income Family of Four - $125,000*

*As of March 2009

Source: Alberta Finance and Enterprise

The overall tax burden on individual Albertans is the lowest of any province in Canada.

Alberta is the only province without a provincial sales tax, and has the lowest gasoline taxes in the country.

A two-income family of four, earning $75,000 pays about $1,400 less in total provincial taxes, including sales and other excise taxes, in Alberta than in Ontario and almost $1,800 less than in British Columbia.

A two-income family of four, earning $125,000 pays about $2,000 less in total provincial taxes, including sales and other excise taxes, in Alberta than in Ontario and about $6,300 less than in Quebec.

As of January 1, 2009, health care premiums were eliminated, which will add to Alberta's tax advantage.

FAMILY INCOME

A 2009 Statistics Canada study reported that in 2007 "for the fourth consecutive year, families living in Alberta had the highest median after-tax income ($75,300), followed by those in Ontario ($65,900) and British Columbia ($63,300)." After-tax family income is comprised of market income and government transfers net of income taxes.

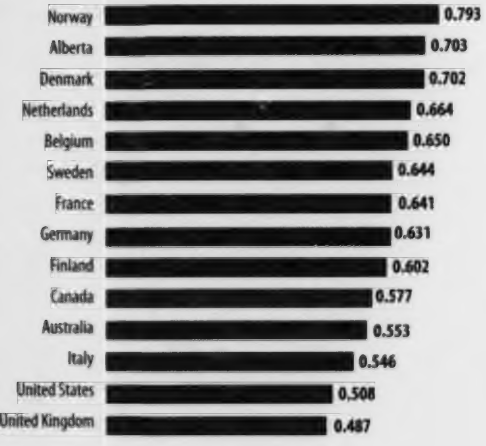
Another measure of income, median family market income (sum of earnings from employment, investment income and private retirement income excluding government transfers), indicated that in 2007 Alberta families had $81,400 in income, 30 per cent more than the Canadian average of $62,700, and $13,900 more than second-ranked Ontario.

2007 Median After-Tax Family Income
Families with Two Persons or More

Source: Statistics Canada

Provincial Comparison 2008

International Comparison 2007



Source: Centre for the Study of Living Standards

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

The Ottawa-based Centre for the Study of Living Standards publishes an index of economic well-being. This index was developed to better measure economic welfare.

Alberta has been the nation's leader in economic well-being for the past 30 years. In 2008, Alberta maintained the top spot in the nation with an index value of 0.817, a 29 per cent advantage over the Canadian average. The province's strong performance in economic well-being indicators was also evident in international comparisons. In 2007, Alberta ranked second in an international comparison of economic well-being in Alberta and 14 OECD nations.

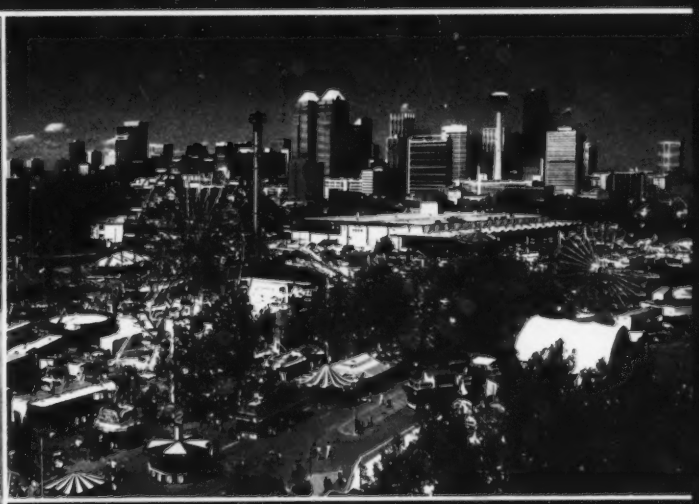
The four components of this index are:

- Consumption Flows: consumption or effective per capita consumption flows (such as personal consumption per capita, life expectancy, and government services per capita);
- Wealth Stocks: wealth or net societal accumulation of stocks of productive resources (such as per capita stock of natural resources, per capita R&D stock, and per capita capital stock);
- Income Distribution: index of poverty intensity;
- Economic Security: security from risk of adverse circumstances (such as unemployment, illness, single parent family poverty, and poverty in old age).

Investing in Alberta

In the midst of the current worldwide economic slowdown, Alberta is the best place to invest. The province is poised to rebound from the recession due to its strong fiscal position, a low corporate tax structure, and a connection to the world's most secure banking system.

Living in Alberta



PEOPLE

Alberta is home to an ethnically diverse population. The vast majority of the population is of European ancestry, with a strong representation of Aboriginal and Métis people and an increasing number of migrants from Asia and other regions, all contributing to a rich cultural diversity in Alberta.

People from China and India comprise four per cent and three per cent of the population, respectively. Edmonton and Calgary each have a vibrant Chinatown. Alberta's major cities also host several multicultural events. Edmonton's multicultural Heritage Days is a weekend festival in August that is participated in by over 70 ethnic groups. Calgary hosts Carifest, the country's second-largest Caribbean festival next to Toronto's Caribana.

Alberta Population by Ethnic Origin, 2006

Ethnic Origin	Number	% of Total Population	Ethnic Origin	Number	% of Total Population
Total	3,256,355	100.0%	Total	3,256,355	100.0%
English	885,825	27.2%	East Indian	88,165	2.7%
German	679,705	20.9%	Metis	83,235	2.6%
Canadian	667,405	20.5%	Italian	82,015	2.5%
Scottish	661,265	20.3%	Welsh	76,115	2.3%
Irish	539,160	16.6%	American	64,200	2.0%
French	388,210	11.9%	Danish	58,825	1.8%
Ukrainian	332,180	10.2%	Filipino	54,305	1.7%
Dutch (Netherlands)	172,910	5.3%	British Isles	53,855	1.7%
Polish	170,935	5.2%	Hungarian	48,665	1.5%
North American Indian	169,355	5.2%	Austrian	36,480	1.1%
Norwegian	144,585	4.4%	Spanish	30,995	1.0%
Chinese	137,600	4.2%	Romanian	26,870	0.8%
Swedish	93,810	2.9%	Vietnamese	25,170	0.8%
Russian	92,020	2.8%	Swiss	22,185	0.7%

Note: These numbers add up to more than the population due to multiple responses.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population

EDUCATION

Albertans are among the best educated people in North America.

Alberta's post-secondary system has a total of 27 institutions, including four universities, two technical institutes, 14 public colleges, six private university colleges that receive public funding, and the Banff Centre which is a learning centre dedicated to the arts and leadership development.

In total, over 117,000 students attend the province's four universities. About 262,000 students are enrolled in the public post-secondary education system.

Many private and religious educational institutions also serve Alberta.

University of Alberta	Canada's second largest English-speaking university with about 40,000 students**. Extensive research facilities.
University of Calgary	With about 31,000 students**, U of C is a major research centre.
University of Lethbridge	Has a focus on liberal arts and select professional programs (9,400 students**).
* NAIT & SAIT	Among the largest polytechnical institutes in Canada, with over 55,000 students** in total.
Public Colleges	14 public colleges with about 84,000 students** in total.
Private Colleges	6 private (but publicly funded) university colleges with about 4,800 students** in total.

* Northern Alberta Institute of Technology and Southern Alberta Institute of Technology ** Full Time and Part Time Students, 2006-2007

Alberta ranks with the world's best in terms of the quality of education. The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a tool developed by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to provide policy-oriented indicators of the skills and knowledge of 15-year olds' capabilities as they near the end of compulsory education. Since 2000, PISA reports on reading literacy, mathematical literacy and scientific literacy every three years.

The 2006 examinations placed Alberta among the top ranks of the 57 countries and 10 Canadian provinces where the tests were conducted. Alberta students have the second highest average score in science, the fourth highest score in reading, and the seventh highest score in mathematics.

Top Scores in Mathematics, Science and Reading - 2006 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) Examinations: Average = 500

Mathematics			Science			Reading		
Rank	Jurisdiction	Score	Rank	Jurisdiction	Score	Rank	Jurisdiction	Score
1	Taiwan	549	1	Finland	563	1	Korea	556
2	Finland	548	**2**	**Alberta**	550	2	Finland	547
3	Hong Kong	547	3	Hong Kong	542	3	Hong Kong	536
4	Korea	547	4	British Columbia	539	**4**	**Alberta**	535
5	Quebec	540	5	Ontario	537	5	Ontario	534
6	Netherlands	531	6	Canada	534	6	British Columbia	528
7	**Alberta**	530	7	Taiwan	532	7	Canada	527
8	Switzerland	530	8	Estonia	531	8	Quebec	522
9	Canada	527	9	Japan	531	9	New Zealand	521
10	Ontario	526	10	Quebec	531	10	Ireland	517
7	*Alberta*	530	*2*	*Alberta*	550	*4*	*Alberta*	535
9	*Canada*	527	*6*	*Canada*	534	*7*	*Canada*	527
45	*United States*	474	*39*	*United States*	489	*n/a*	*United States*	n/a
14	*Japan*	523	*9*	*Japan*	531	*23*	*Japan*	498
28	*Germany*	504	*21*	*Germany*	502	*27*	*Germany*	495

Notes: 1. PISA tests 15-year olds' mathematics, science and reading skills
2. The rank is out of 67 jurisdictions

Source: Measuring Up: Canadian Results of the OECD PISA Study, Statistics Canada

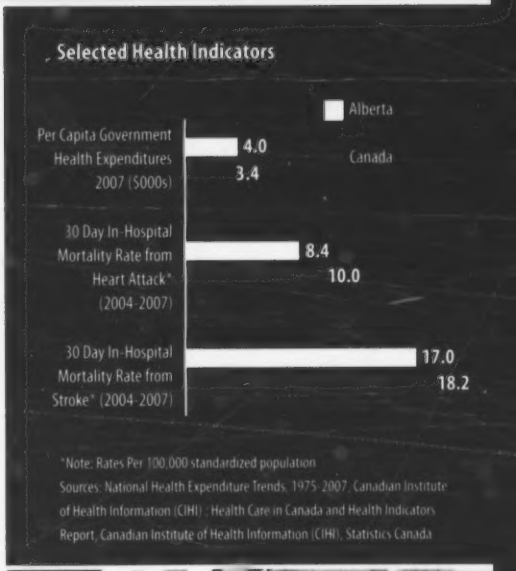
HEALTH CARE

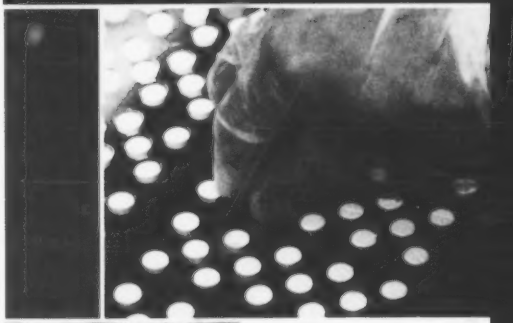
The province's health care system delivers safe and effective care. Compared to other Canadian provinces, Alberta ranks first in per capita spending on health expenditures, funding more health services than required under the Canada Health Care Act. As of January 1, 2009 Alberta's health care premiums have been eliminated entirely. This means that $1 billion will be left with Albertans and Alberta business each year.

A leader in cardiac care, Alberta is reported to have the lowest 30-day in-hospital mortality rates for patients following a heart attack. Alberta is also lower than the Canadian average for the 30-day in-hospital mortality rate for patients suffering a stroke.

Alberta has a number of world-class facilities that specialize in cardiac care. The Stollery Children's Hospital in Edmonton is the largest pediatric heart transplant centre in Western Canada and one of the best in North America. The new Mazankowski Alberta Heart Institute opened in Edmonton in 2008, and will provide more resources for cardiac care, including cardiac surgery, research and education.

To enhance access to radiation therapy services throughout Alberta, a "Capacity Corridor for Cancer Radiation Therapy" is being developed that is creating three new sites for radiation therapy in Lethbridge, Red Deer and Grande Prairie. The new treatment centres will improve access to radiation therapy access for rural Albertans by providing the service at more locations closer to home. This will also enable residents of Edmonton and Calgary to receive more timely care by alleviating demand at the urban facilities.


Selected Health Indicators
Alberta
Canada
Per Capita Government Health Expenditures 2007 ($000s)
4.0
3.4
30 Day In-Hospital Mortality Rate from Heart Attack* (2004-2007)
8.4
10.0
30 Day In-Hospital Mortality Rate from Stroke* (2004-2007)
17.0
18.2
*Note: Rates Per 100,000 standardized population
Sources: National Health Expenditure Trends, 1975-2007, Canadian Institute of Health Information (CIHI) ; Health Care in Canada and Health Indicators Report, Canadian Institute of Health Information (CIHI), Statistics Canada



Private Sector Support of Performing Arts (2006)
Per Capita

Note: Excludes statistics for Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and New Brunswick which were suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act.

Average Household Spending on Live Performing Arts: 2007 (Annual Dollars)

Source: Statistics Canada

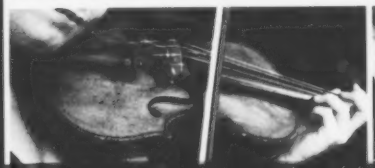
ARTS and CULTURE

Alberta has diverse arts and cultural communities, and numerous community and ethnic organizations that provide festivals, events and attractions for Albertans and out-of-province visitors. Calgary and Edmonton, Alberta's two major cities, have vigorous live theatre and visual arts scenes, as well as symphony, opera and ballet.

Alberta's vibrant cultural environment and sustainable creative industries sector is vital to the social and economic well-being of all Albertans. The Spirit of Alberta, Alberta's cultural policy, supports and creates opportunities for excellence in the arts, recreation and sports. The policy seeks to widen access to culturally diverse experiences and enhance the quality of life for all Albertans.

Throughout the province, community-led festivals bring music, dance, film, literature, theatre and the visual arts to Albertans of all ages. In 2007, over 27,000 arts events took place in the province, including 64 community-based arts festivals, performances by 10 major performing arts companies (opera, ballet, symphonies and theatre companies) and 130 community performing arts organizations. Total attendance at arts events reached 11 million spectators. A number of these festivals, such as Edmonton's annual Heritage Days, celebrate Alberta's culturally diverse population.

In Alberta, businesses aren't just doing business: Alberta companies provide the highest level of per capita support to the arts in Canada, primarily by way of donations and fund raising.

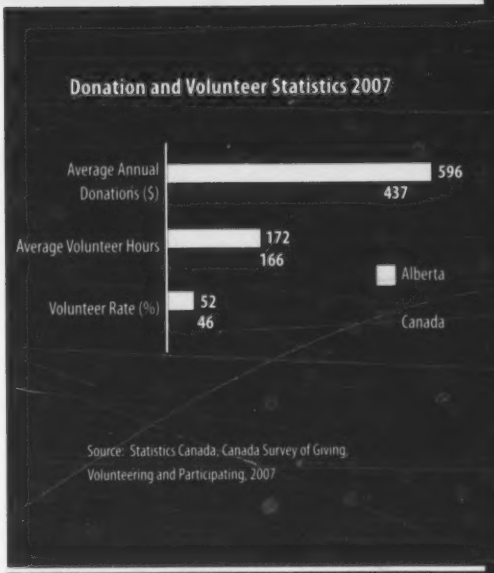


VOLUNTEERISM

Charitable giving, volunteering time to charitable and non-profit organizations, and helping people in need directly help build community. The Canada Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating undertaken by Statistics Canada aims to collect information to better understand what motivates Canadians to give to charity and in the process optimize this positive influence in society.

Albertans give generously of their time and money for charitable causes. The latest survey on giving and volunteering (2007) ranked Alberta first among Canadian provinces in terms of average annual donations. On average, Albertans donated $596 in 2007 on charitable causes compared to $437 donated by the average Canadian.

Albertans are also known for their volunteer spirit. Relatively, more Albertans volunteered than the national average and logged longer hours than the average Canadian volunteer.



Government of Alberta:	www.alberta.ca
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Advanced Education and Technology	www.advancededandtech.alberta.ca

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For more information, contact:

Alberta Finance and Enterprise
4th Floor, Commerce Place
10155-102 Street
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5J 4L6

Tel. (780) 427-6787
Fax (780) 422-0061

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